

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Open Session

Meeting of May 1, 2007

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Winman Jr. High School on May 1, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson

Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice-Chairperson

Joyce L. Andrade

ADMINISTRATION

Robert J. Shapiro, Superintendent

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education

Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2007-120: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(8).

MOTION PASSES (3-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – absent

Paul Cannistra - absent

Meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m. with the following in attendance in addition to those listed above

COMMITTEE

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs

Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Announcement:

Chairman Friel said that in Executive Session immediately prior to this Open Session, a vote of 3-0 was recorded denying an appeal. Ms. Healey said that vote was taken with two school committee members recusing themselves.

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2007-121: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the minutes of the public session for March 31, April 9, April 10, April 11 and April 12, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Christopher Friel – abstain Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - abstain

MOTION 2007-121: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of Open Session of April 24, 2007 with amendment. [the wrong template was used for the vote call.]

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

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Approval of Executive Minutes

MOTION 2007-122: Moved by Ms. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the executive minutes for March 31, April 9, April 10, April 11 and April 12, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Christopher Friel – abstain Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - abstain

MOTION 2007-123: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs.

Andrade, to approve the Executive Minutes for April 24, 2007, with amendment. [the wrong template was used for the vote call]

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Christopher Friel – abstain Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - abstain

No transfers on this agenda.

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2007-124: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Announcements:

Professional Personnel items

Retirements:

MOTION 2007-125: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of Mary Stoukides, science teacher at Pilgrim, be accepted effective the last day of school; and that the retirement of Joanne Palana, elementary educator, Sherman, be accepted effective the last day of school.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Classified Personnel Items

Retirement:

MOTION 2007-126: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of Rosemary Walsh, special education teacher assistant at Winman be accepted effective April 1, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Student Speakers:

Alexander DiCicco – Sophomore Class President (Toll Gate)

Dominique Star – Sophomore Class Vice President (Toll Gate)

Hoxsie School Playground – recommended by David Small.

Mr. Cannistra asked if this would interfere with the new underground sprinkler system and the answer was no. He also mentioned that there are some nozzles sticking out of that system, which could cause a trip and fall situation. Mr. Small said that would be taken care of.

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MOTION 2007-127: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Hoxsie School Playground proposal.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

2007-2008 Budget – Mr. Dooley presented the Superintendent's Budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The summary presented represented the budget exactly as presented at the budget hearings, with the following two exceptions: (1) six science department teacher assistant position have been included; and a reduction of health insurance estimated expense to reflect lower rates that will result from the city's health insurance study.

Proposed Budget Adjustments 2007-08 (Revised 4/26/07)

Professional Staffing

Administrative Staff Reductions

reduce 1 full time literacy coach position (108,000)

reduce 2 part-time literacy coach positions (78,000)

Teaching staff reductions (excluding Potowomut)

reduce 10 elementary teaching positions (680,000)

reduce 4 elementary itinerant positions (272,000)
reduce 10 secondary teaching positions (680,000)
Add 10 Jr. high teaching positions (7-period) 680,000
add 3 graduation by proficiency teachers 240,000
reduce 6 secondary teachers (eliminate stanines) (408,000)
reduce 10 assistant coaches (31,436)
combine Jr./Sr. High Dept. Heads (195,000)
eliminate intramurals (30,000)
reduce .5 spec. ed teaching position (Holden) (34,000)
reduce 1.5 spec. ed teaching position (102,000)
reduce .6 psychologist position (50,000)
reduce 2 reading consultants (136,000)
Total professional adjustments (1,884,436)

Middle Management Staff reductions

reduce 1 maintenance foreman (85,000)
reduce 1 area supervisor position (70,000)
Classified staff reduction(excluding Potowomut)
eliminate 3 painter positions (180,000)
eliminate 6 third-shift custodial positions (270,000)
eliminate 2 part-time clerks (36,000)
reduce 2 teacher assistants (108,000)
Total classified adjustments (749,000)
Move preschool students into schools
move 3 teachers to Warwick classrooms 0
add 3 teacher assistant positions 162,000

reduce tuition payments to Child Inc. (704,000)

Savings from program change (542,000)

Alternate Learning Program

Open an ALP Program at a secondary school

(for approx. 20 students in outside facilities) (400,000)

Restructure Spec. Ed. Summer Program (175,000)

Subcontract Special Ed. Transportation

Annual Savings (2,400,000)

Optional Plan – Current Contract for both

2006-07 and 2007-08 save \$1,600,000 (1,650,000)

Total adjustments (5,400,436)

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MOTION 2007-128: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the 2007-2008 Budget proposal and that it be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Nay

Bids – there were no bids or change orders on this agenda.

**Adoption of Policies – 1st reading - Policy JEC – School Admissions
Policy JEC – adding show proof of residence.**

MOTION 2007-129: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy JEC. MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Policy JECB: Admission of Non-Resident Students – adding: and if space is available.

MOTION 2007-130: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra,

to approve the amendment to Policy JECB [putting the words and if space is available before upon payment of tuition.]

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-131: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra,

to approve the first reading of the amended Policy JECB.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Policy JGB – Detention of Students – adding words: Notification to parents/guardians must be given a minimum of 24 hours in advance or through verbal agreement with the parent/guardian prior to the 24 hour notice – both in the “elementary paragraph” and “secondary paragraph.”

MOTION 2007-132: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the first reading of Policy JGB.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Policy IGBG – Home/Hospital Instruction – adding Parents may request services prior to the three week absence if a doctor’s certificate is presented stating the anticipated dates of absence.

MOTION 2007-133: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the first reading of Policy IGBG.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

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Public Comment:

Union President Holtzman commented that combining of department heads will dismantle administration leadership team of the secondary schools. He said he would like to go on record that this will negatively affect the learning climate of secondary schools for \$195,000, and asked the School Committee to reconsider and look into it. Mr. Cushman concerned that United Healthcare was not being considered, saying we need to look at the whole picture. He said there was misinformation out there, and hoped that the Unions would sit down and talk about changes. Michele Landri commented that for years she worked in a doctor's office, United Health came in and promised the world, then out of the blue started denying claims. She said the level of service between Blue Cross and United is significantly different. She commented that she couldn't live with reduction in services; I want to go to the doctors I want to go to. Michele then commented on the department heads, saying how can

you split dept. heads, they are busy people, managing departments, books, budgets, don't know how they can do it in two different schools, and how will they fit into the advisory program? Please revisit this. She commented on Potowomut School, saying it is one of the best schools in the system. She suggested redistricting to reduce numbers in other schools and fill up Potowomut. Sharon Terzian said she was going to stick up for United Health. She said she has major medical bills for both herself and her child, and they have not had any change at all with United. Jim Ginolfi said he appreciated the hours and time that went into the proposed budget but you are getting your information from the administration. He asked how many hours were scheduled for staff development days, and Mr. Dooley said there would be two six-hour days. Mr. Ginolfi said that eliminating stanines are a big issue – there are other ways to designate students by ability. Eliminating that is going to be devastating to the students. We have not had training to deal with this. He said combining department heads was not a sound move. The Warwick role is much different than other systems. The system will not be the same; don't know how it will function. He said how is eliminating literacy coaches, who are grant funded, chopping? I have some ideas if someone wants to contact me. Tracey McDermott was concerned about the AP classes. She suggested combining honors and AP classes, with the same curriculum, but AP students would take the AP exam. She said that colleges look at GPA, class rank, rigorous courses, number of AP classes taken, and SAT scores. Mr. Shapiro said that college boards have changed the rules on AP and

are requiring that all AP courses be audited by administration people of the college board, who approve or disapprove of the course work. They have never done this before, and combining could cause major problems. Debra O'Leary: said her husband was a fleet manager, and he would be happy to sit down and give you information. She said that contracting out transportation is a mistake. Mr. Bennett (Gorton Phys. Ed. Dept. Head) said that something that needs to be realized is that intramurals are an extension of physical education with after school programs 2 to 4 nights a week. To lose this program would have a devastating affect on the junior high students.

MOTION 2007-134: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting adjourned:

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary